

## ORE TESTS FOR THE PROSPECTOR

### HOW THEY MAY DETERMINE PRESENCE OF VARIOUS MINERALS

Judging by the number of worthless samples submitted to assayers to be tested for various metals, and by the act that valueless minerals are often supposed to be valuable ores, it is evident that many do not realize how easily some elements may be detected. Naturally a prospector cannot be expected to burden himself with the equipment of a chemical laboratory, but an outfit, consisting chiefly of a few chemicals, blowpipe and spirit lamp, adds little bulk of weight and may be of inestimable service.

The purer the substance to be tested the better, and, should the mineral be scattered through the rock in fine particles, it is usually well to first concentrate it by pulverizing the sample and then panning in water, the concentrates being subsequently dried and if necessary ground finer. A clean six-inch frying pan is very convenient, both for washing and drying what is left.

Gold ores, when crushed and panned, generally show either free metallic gold or sulphides, or other concentrates containing gold, which, however, is not visible. If these sulphides be roasted over a fire at a dull red heat, on thin sheet-iron, say a piece of tin can, and then reground in a mortar to polish the gold, the metal in many cases will be plainly seen on panning again. Should the material be oxidized, and when powdered and panned, show nothing but the magnetic oxide of iron, commonly called "black sand," the sample is apt to be worthless or very low grade, for the writer's experience leads him to believe that, as a general thing, the black sand itself obtained from rock in place carries little or no gold. The dried black sand can be readily picked up with a magnet.

Greenish rocks are sometimes mistaken for ores of copper, which metal may, however, be easily detected in the following manner: Pour into a test tube, say half an inch in diameter, enough of the finely ground material to cover the bottom to a depth of about half an inch, add two or three times as much strong nitric acid, and boil gently over an alcohol lamp until the acid seems to have no more effect and red fumes have ceased to come off. Dilute the solution with one or two volumes of water and hold a clean, bright piece of iron or steel, such as the blade of a pocket knife, in the liquid for a few moments, when, if present, a thin film of metallic copper will be plainly seen on the blade upon withdrawing and dipping it in clean water.

Instead of testing this solution with iron or steel, strong ammonia

may be added in excess to the liquid when cool, that is, the test tube, after being well shaken, should smell of ammonia. The addition of the ammonia generally produces a reddish-brown precipitate due to iron, and the tube should be set aside for a few minutes until this settles somewhat. If a copper mineral, the liquid will have a deep blue color, the more copper the deeper the color. Nickel solutions similarly treated become blue, which, however, is fainter than the color produced by copper, and in any event the ores of nickel are apparently not widely distributed. There are many other tests for copper, but the two described require little time, knowledge or skill and are as good as any for practical purposes.—Gordon Surr in Mining World.

### THE BITE OF A DOG

"I want to say a few words about hydrophobia," said a physician. "When an animal bites through clothing there is little or no danger of infection. The virus is on the teeth of the animal and when the person bitten has received the bite through a layer of clothing there is little danger.

"The virus on the teeth is left in the clothing and is not communicated to the person bitten. Rabid dogs or other animals are not like reptiles. They have no hollow teeth through which poison may be communicated directly into the system of the victim.

"Therefore, when a supposedly rabid dog bites a person, if the bite is not on an exposed part of the body he should have no fear."—Washington Post.

### SWIFT JUSTICE IN INYO

Justice is not always laden footed—even in Inyo county. Last Sunday Rafael Vega, a Mexican, entered the residence of R. H. Heyne, at Olancha, and stole \$58 in cash and a quantity of jewelry. Sunday evening he was arrested and taken to the branch jail at Lone Pine. His preliminary examination was held before Justice of the Peace Lewis Tuesday morning. The case of the prosecution was without a flaw and the accused took the stand and made a complete confession. Tuesday evening he was delivered to Sheriff Naylor. Wednesday morning an information was filed in the superior court charging him with grand larceny. Wednesday afternoon he was arraigned, pleaded guilty and was sentenced to five years at Folsom.—Inyo Independent.

### CHANGE OF LESSEES

The Evening Chronicle last evening passed into the management of L. N. Clark, Jr., and Mrs. M. Davis, Ed Blake retiring as a lessee. Mr. Clark, the new lessee, is a son-in-law of Franklin Leonard and was manager for the Comstock Tunnel company at Sutro before entering the newspaper field.

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## STRIKE IT RICH THEN SELL OUT FOR \$50,000

WINNEMUCCA, Nev., Sept. 6.—Advice from Battle Mountain are that another discovery of bonanza gold ore in that district became public Friday when the property on which the strike was made was purchased by the Nevada-Omaha company for \$50,000. For some reason the strike had been kept quiet, although several specimens of the rock had been shown in town.

For quick action, this discovery and subsequent sale reminds one of the boom times of three or four years ago. Alex Walker and Paul Keel, discoverers of this prize, uncovered the gold-laden lead just ten days ago, after prospecting for some time for the source of some rich float which they had found on the surface. Finally, as the reward of their labors, Mr. Walker, who is an experienced prospector, uncovered the pay streak, which is from three to six inches wide, and described as "nearly all gold." The lead has been exposed for several feet and can be traced for a distance of several hundred feet.

The Nevada-Omaha company, which is represented locally by W. S. Wilhelm, has already begun letting leases on the ground, and will itself commence active operations at once. It is reported that the terms of the sale include a cash payment of \$10,000.

## CHEER FOR THE MAN WHO IS BROKE

The lives of the very wealthy are at best wearisome and fraught with worries and cares which those in humbler circumstances know not of. The burden of great wealth undermines the strongest constitution in its care and responsibility. However, the ambition for honest acquirement of riches is a laudable one and seems to be inherent with most men who possess red blood in their veins. But it is the chase and not the quarry that makes the game worth while. In other words, "It isn't the money and it isn't the fame,

It's the lure, the lure of the game," that keeps humanity eternally pegging away for the almighty dollar and the comforts it may bring. However, the following statement coming from Andrew Carnegie seems to ring true, and even if it doesn't portray the actual condition of the millionaire it may act as a sort of balm to those who are not burdened

with too much of this world's goods.

Mr. Carnegie says: "Comrades, I was born in poverty, and would not exchange its sacred memories with the richest millionaire's son who ever breathed. What does he know about mother or father? These are mere names to him. Give me the life of the boy whose mother is nurse, seamstress, washer-woman, cook, teacher, angel and saint, all in one, and whose father is guide, exemplar and friend. No servants to come between. These are the boys who are born to the best fortune. Some men think that wealth leads to happiness. What do they know about it? They only know one side; they imagine the other. I have lived both, and I know there is very little in wealth that can lead to human happiness beyond the small comforts of life. Millionaires who laugh are rare. My experience is that wealth is apt to take smiles away."—Stolen.

### DELMAR MINE CLOSING

One of the hardest blows that has fallen on a Nevada mining camp in some time is the order which is said to have gone out for the closing of the Bamberger-Delamar mine and mill at Delamar, Nev. For some time rumors have come from that camp that it was the intention of the management to close the property and that the shut down would be permanent. While no information can be obtained at the local offices of the company, it was learned from a source that is believed to be authoritative that orders have been sent out to close everything in connection with the mine.

When inquiry was made at the local offices the management declared that it did not wish to discuss the matter, but that it was true that the mill was being closed down.

This means that the big 500-ton cyanide mill will cease to operate and the huge 2000-horse power electric plant will be taken out of commission.

It has been known for several years that the property has made no money. Various estimates have been placed on the amount expended ranging from \$2,000,000 up. It is safe to say that at least \$2,000,000 has been expended on the equipment and development of the property. For years it is believed that it has cost the company in the neighborhood of \$1 a ton for each ton of ore treated, over the values extracted.

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### NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION OF CO-PARTNERSHIP.

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